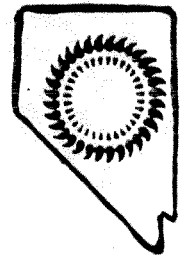


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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SYNOPSIS

September 1994 was a warm month over all of Nevada except for a small portion of Esmeralda County. Precipitation was more of a mixed bag however, as a wet period at month's end caused a little above normal precipitation in some areas, such as East Central Nevada, and parts of Clark County. It was also a little wetter than normal in the cool area of Esmeralda County, a portion of the Upper Humboldt River Area, and in East Central Humboldt County. Several locations in Western Nevada ended a 3 & 1/2 month dry spell with end-of-September precipitation.

An important climate news item occurred in September as Great Basin National Park personnel under the direction of Park Superintendent Al Hendricks installed a new automatic weather station on Bald Mountain at the 11,700 foot level on the north arm of 13,000 foot Wheeler Peak. This is the highest weather data collecting site in the State, and one of the highest in Anglo-America. During the first month of operation in September an 86mph gust was recorded on the 28th.

TEMPERATURE

Temperature departures ranged from a little below normal in parts of Esmeralda County to nearly 5 degrees above normal in Northern Humboldt County. Most of the State was 1 & 1/2 to 2 & 1/2 degrees warmer than the usual September.

No new State record highs were approached, as Echo and Callville Bays could only muster 109 and Overton 108. Rioville (now under Lake Mead) reached 118 in 1888. "Cold" was not very cold either as the State September low of zero set at Carlin in 1895 was far below the 20 at Charleston and 22 at Reese River in September 1994. Interestingly enough, the month's high (87) and the month's low (20) were recorded on the same day at Charleston (23rd).

PRECIPITATION

Compared to normal the heaviest precipitation fell in East Central and North Central Nevada, as McGill and Ruth had 1 & 1/2 times normal and Oroville almost 2 times the monthly average. The largest reported amount of precipitation fell at Daggett Pass (1.93") in the Tahoe Basin, with 1.52 at Ruth and 1.45" at McGill. Yerington came in on the dry side with only .04" for the month. Antelope Valley Farr and Middlegate had only .05".

1993-94 WATER YEAR PRECIPITATION

The 1993-94 Water Year ended with September, and will go into the books as a very dry year in the West and South, with only 1/2 - 2/3 of normal precipitation. Many gages in the mountains East of the Sierra Nevada between 7,000 and 8,000 feet in Douglas and Lyon Counties received only 40-50% of normal, as did much of Clark County. Portions of the Northeast had a little wetter than normal conditions. It will be logged as a "good" year in the Snake Range and nearby locations of East Central Nevada, as 100-115% of normal was recorded. Similar figures were extant in Beowawe and Jiggs. The largest amount of precipitation that was measured last Water Year was 32.95" at 8,300 feet at Angel Lake in the Northern Ruby Mountains (93% of normal), with the driest location being Las Vegas with only 1.60" (38% of normal).

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were above normal again in September, with wind speeds being near normal. Evaporation was above normal, as it has been for most of the last 8 years, 7 of which have been drier than normal over much of the Silver State. For example, Overton had 10.77", Silver Peak 9.88", 7.36" at Reno UN, 6.96" at Ruby Lake, 6.10" at Shoshone, 5.82" at Orovada, 5.09" at Minden and 7.35" at Honey Lake.

NOTE: From the State Climate Office Archives - 60 years ago -

"The year 1934 was the warmest year since records were first kept in Nevada in the 1870's. Precipitation was well below normal near the end of a several year drought. The cumulative effects of this caused many cattle to die, springs and wells to dry up, and crops to fail, as irrigation water was not available. Clearing out springs, deepening wells and the purchase of cattle and sheep by Government agencies helped to somewhat alleviate the problem."

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